

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-45. (cancelled)

46. (currently amended) A method for simplifying maintenance, adjustment, or error analysis of ~~[[a]] data object~~ objects in a printer or copier having a control panel, comprising the steps of:

~~providing a control unit external to the printer or copier connected to an external data processing unit external to the printer or copier and its control panel and which accesses the printer or copier via an interface as~~ a first data line for said at least one of maintenance, adjustment, or error analysis of said data object;

providing in said printer or copier at least a first control unit and a second control unit and a second data line between said first and second control units for transferring data, said ~~at least one~~ first control unit being connected to said external ~~control unit~~ data processing unit by said first data line, and said second control unit having at least one of said data ~~object~~ objects stored in a storage region thereof, said at least one data object comprising a parameter ~~variable or a constant~~ for control of the printer or copier, at least one of said data objects not being controllable from the control panel of said printer;

associating a first identifier as a first network address with the first control unit and associating a second identifier as a second network address with the second control unit; and

associating a third identifier as a third network address which is different than said second identifier second network address with the at least one data object to enable a simplified direct access to the at least one data object by said external control unit for said at least one of maintenance, adjustment, or error analysis of said

at least one data object, a position of the at least one data object in the network being determined by said third network address.

47. (previously presented) A method according to claim 46 wherein the network addresses are hierarchically organized and the third network address is hierarchically subordinate to the second network address.

48. (previously presented) A method according to claim 46 wherein the second network address is determined with aid of the third network address.

49. (currently amended) A method according to claim 47 wherein a transfer path for access to the at least one data object is predetermined by a hierarchical position of the third network address.

50. (currently amended) A method according to claim 46 wherein data of the at least one data object are read out from the storage region of the second control unit by the first control unit with aid of the third network address.

51. (previously presented) A method according to claim 46 wherein the first control unit and the second control unit respectively form a network node.

52. (previously presented) A method according to claim 48 wherein the third network address comprises a sub-address of the second network address.

53. (currently amended) A method according to claim 46 wherein for the at least one data object comprises a parameter of the printer or copier and a value of the at least one data object specifies a value of the parameter of the printer or copier is changed.

54. (previously presented) A method according to claim 46 wherein the control units are hierarchically organized, the second control unit being hierarchically subordinate to the first control unit, and the network address of the second control unit being hierarchically subordinate to the network address of the first control unit.

55. (currently amended) A method according to claim 46 wherein at least one third control unit is provided that is connected with the second control unit via a third data line and is hierarchically subordinate to the second control unit, the at least one data object being read out by the third control unit via the third data line.

56. (previously presented) A method according to claim 46 wherein the first data line comprises an HDLC network, and the second data line comprises a CAN network.

57. (previously presented) A method according to claim 46 wherein data transfer over the first data line occurs with aid of the Simple Network Management Protocol.

58. (currently amended) A method according to claim 46 wherein routers are provided in the control units, the routers forwarding a read request to at least one network address hierarchically subordinate to the at least one data object.

59. (cancelled)

60. (previously presented) A method according to claim 46 wherein the external control unit comprises a personal computer with software.

61. (currently amended) A system for simplifying maintenance, adjustment, or error analysis of ~~[[a]] data object~~ objects in a printer or copier having a control panel, comprising:

a printer or copier;

~~a control unit external to the printer or copier connected to~~ an external data processing unit external to the printer or copier and its control panel and which accesses the printer or copier via an interface as a first data line for said at least one of maintenance, adjustment, or error analysis of said data object;

in said printer or copier at least a first control unit and a second control unit and a second data line between said first and second control units for transferring data, said ~~at least one~~ first control unit being connected to said external ~~control unit~~ data processing unit by said first data line, and said second control unit having at least one of said data ~~object~~ objects stored in a storage region thereof, said at least one data object comprising a ~~variable or a constant for~~ parameter for control of the printer or copier, at least one of said data objects not being controllable from the control panel of said printer;

a first identifier as a first network address associated with the first control unit and a second identifier as a second network address associated with the second control unit; and

a third identifier as a third network address which is different than said second identifier second network address associated with the at least one data object to enable a simplified direct access to the at least one data object by said external control unit for said at least one of maintenance, adjustment, or error analysis of said at least one data object, a position of the at least one data object in the network being determined by said third network address.